

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 15 to 21.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, “controller” has been changed to “power generator.” This same change has been made to Claim 17. This changed paragraph and Claim 17 are now consistent with the remainder of the specification. See page 9, beginning at line 4, for example, “By braking the rotor with the electric magnetic brake generated by adjusting the electric current flowing to the power generator, energy consumption can be reduced for the braking,” etc. (emphasis added).

Claim 2 has been cancelled and its subject matter has been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Claim 2, now incorporated into independent Claim 1, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Abu-Isa. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner recognizes that Allen fails to disclose a mixture of compounds having different solid-liquid phase change temperature ranges, and uses Abu-Isa for this teaching. However, amended Claim 1 recites that “the mixture ratio of the compounds is adjusted based on the environmental conditions in which the temperature difference drive unit is used to achieve desired operating characteristics.” See the specification at page 12, lines 3 to 10, and 28 to 34, for example. Abu-Isa fails to disclose or suggest this specifically recited feature and in fact teaches away from it. Referring for example to Table 1 in Abu-Isa, the mixture ratio is fixed and not adjusted based on the environmental conditions. Claims 3 to 14 recite yet additional novel features, and depend directly or indirectly on amended Claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 17, 2004